

W5YI REPORT

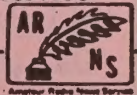
Up to the minute news from the worlds of amateur radio, personal computing and emerging electronics. While no guarantee is made, information is from sources we believe to be reliable. May be reproduced providing credit is given to The W5YI Report.

Dits & Bits

Fred Maia, W5YI, Editor, P.O. Box 10101, Dallas, TX 75207

★ In This Issue ★

Radiolocation Moves to 160M
Exam Fee Maximum Increased
FCC Releases FY-85 VE Stats
Update on Ham Power Level Suit
Teleconference Radio Network
RF Lighting Regs Relaxed
Soviets on Inventing Radio
Repeater Band Expansion Denied
Time Running Out, Lifetime GRT
New Electronic Gadgets & Ideas
PMRS - Personal Radio Service
New Worldwide HDTV Standard
Canada to Realign Ham Service
and much, much more!



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November 15, 1985

New Sharing Partner for 160-meter Ham Band

The FCC has adopted an Order which effectively divides the amateur 160 meter band into two subbands. The 1800-1900 kHz segment will remain Amateur Exclusive, while 1900-2000 kHz has been primarily assigned to the Radiolocation Service. Amateurs may use the 1900-2000 segment only on a secondary non-interference basis. Starting in 1987, we will have company!

BACKGROUND OF THE ACTION

At the 1979 World Administrative Radio Conference (WARC) in Geneva, Switzerland, the attending nations agreed that the AM broadcast band would be extended from 1605 to 1705 kHz. (They almost extended it to 1860 kHz!) It became necessary to find spectrum for the Radiolocation Service which had previously been allocated the 1605-1800 kHz slot. Radiolocation is electronic positioning and is used primarily by offshore drillers to locate oil sites.

The WARC nations agreed that in Region 2 (North and South America), Radiolocation could be accommodated in the 1850-2000 band. Prior to WARC, the Amateur 160 meter band was shared with Radionavigation. Loran stations ceased operation in this spectrum in 1982.

On September 5, 1984, our own FCC proposed that the 1900-2000 kHz slot be

reallocated to the Radiolocation Service - an action that had been signalled many years earlier in WARC rule making. (NPRM Docket 84-874)

A week later, the ARRL filed a petition requesting that the FCC consider allocating other medium-frequency (MF) bands for non-government radiolocation users rather than accomodating them in the 160 meter ham band. The FCC declined to consider this.

Comments on the NPRM closed on April 2, 1985 having been extended several times at the request of the League and the Quarter Century Wireless Association.

WHAT THE COMMENTS SAID....

Several hundred comments were received from both radiolocation and amateur interests. The radiolocation industry view generally supported the FCC proposal to move them to 1900-2000 kHz. They maintained that AM broadcasting could start as early as July 1987 in the 1605-1705 band and "this is not too far in the future."

Amateur comments opposed the NPRM, arguing that the NPRM was "procedurally improper" and that alternative spectrum and systems were available for radiolocation purposes. Industry interests responded by saying that as offshore operations move further from

land, higher frequency and satellite systems cannot provide the range of coverage required.

THE FCC DECISION ON DOCKET 84-874

The Commission said that radiolocation licensees choose to operate in the MF bands "because of spectrum and equipment availability, economic and operational requirements, and technical considerations."

"We believe that when higher technology systems become available, and economic and operational considerations warrant a change, radiolocation licensees will opt for newer systems. For the present, however, there appears to be a valid operational requirement for radiolocation users to employ medium-frequency systems."

The FCC adopted their proposal to implement the 1900-2000 kHz frequency band in the Radiolocation Service Frequency Table. Maximum power levels of 375 watts and 1.0 kHz bandwidths were authorized.

Recognized, however, was that immediate access to the band by radiolocation users may not be necessary because of the time frame concerning the takeover of the 1605-1705 kHz band to AM broadcasting. In view of this, the FCC delayed the date on which the 1900-2000 kHz band becomes available for radiolocation use until July 1, 1987.

Part 97 of the Amateur Radio Service rules was amended with a footnote to indicate that General, Advanced and Extra Class amateur radio operators transmitting in the 1900-2000 kHz frequency band must do so on a secondary non-interference basis to operations in the Part 90 Radiolocation Service. "Amateur operations are afforded no protection from interference due to operation of stations in the Radiolocation Service in this band."

"We note that for the near term, amateur operators will continue to have virtually exclusive non-government use of this band until such time as private radiolocation transmitters become operational," the FCC said in their October 31st release.
(Action: FCC, 10/28/85 by Report & Order)

FCC ANNOUNCES 1986 MAXIMUM TEST FEE

Pursuant to Part 97.36 of the Commission's Rules for the Amateur Radio Service, the FCC announced on October 31st that effective January 1, 1986, the maximum allowable reimbursement for out-of-pocket costs for a volunteer administered amateur radio examination will be \$4.29. This amount is based on a 3.2% increase in the Department of Labor Consumer Price Index (CPI) during the last fiscal year.

"The amount of such reimbursement from any examinee for any one examination at a particular examination session, regardless of the number of examination elements taken, must not exceed \$4.29," the FCC noted.

The maximum expense recoupment rate for 1985 was \$4.16 (4% CPI increase) but all VEC's retained the \$4.00 figure. The original legislation provided for increases in out-of-pocket cost rebates based on inflation.

The VEC determines the amount of expense rebate based on the overall annual cost estimate of administering his VEC/VE program. Corresponding adjustments must be made the following year if costs are less than recouped.

While we have not yet reached a firm decision on our own VEC program yet, we are leaning towards a (1986) \$4.25 fee with the VE retaining \$2.00 if ten or more examinations are administered... \$1.25 if nine or less are given.

We believe that we are the only VEC that shares expense recoupment with our volunteer examiners. We do this because there are expenses ...postage, duplicating, pencils, etc., that the VE must pay for and funds must be available.

FCC RELEASES 1985 VE PROGRAM STATS...

The Fiscal-1985 Volunteer Examining Program statistics released by the FCC's Private Radio Bureau show that the system is working! Even though the new VE program started in 1984, it didn't really get going until FY-85.

W5YI REPORT.....

Page #3

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Most recent pass rate is 61.27% for September... up from a year beginning 46.69% The number of examinees per session is declining, however.... now about 11. Note that 17,373 joined our ranks for the first time!

FISCAL - 1985 - AMATEUR RADIO SERVICE VOLUNTEER EXAMINING PROGRAM STATISTICS

<u>Fiscal-85 Month</u>	<u>No. of VEC's (*)</u>	<u>No. of Testing Sessions:</u>	<u>No. of Test Elements Admin.</u>	<u>No. of Persons Tested:</u>	<u>Pass Rate:</u>	<u>No. of Persons per Session:</u>	<u>No. of Elements per Person:</u>	<u>No. of Test Sessions per VEC</u>
Oct 84	50	75	2,465	1,643	46.69%	21.91	1.50	1.50
Nov 84	50	89	2,240	1,493	47.86%	16.78	1.50	1.78
Dec 84	51	130	2,741	1,827	49.73%	14.05	1.50	2.55
Jan 85	52	219	5,290	3,664	51.30%	16.73	1.44	4.21
Feb 85	53	168	3,428	2,053	54.64%	12.22	1.67	3.17
Mar 85	64	252	6,178	4,177	56.30%	16.58	1.48	3.94
Apr 85	64	261	6,202	3,620	59.32%	13.87	1.71	4.08
May 85	64	328	7,436	4,925	57.88%	15.02	1.51	5.13
Jun 85	64	322	6,221	4,217	58.16%	13.10	1.48	5.03
Jul 85	65	279	4,639	3,173	57.88%	11.37	1.46	4.29
Aug 85	65	280	4,894	3,299	61.03%	11.78	1.48	4.31
Sep 85	65	241	4,247	2,846	61.27%	11.81	1.49	3.71
Total:		2,644	55,981	36,937				
Average:	59	220	4,665	3,078	55.17%	14.60	1.52	3.64

(* Many VEC's handle multiple regions. FCC considers each call sign region as a different VEC for report purposes. W5YI is actually 13 VEC's. Only 27 different VEC's exist. As of October 24 there are now 77 VEC's since "Metrolplex-VEC," a New Jersey VEC in Region 2, has now be approved for "national status".)

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Oct 84	961	390	217	158	58	823	510	+ 451
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Dec 84	1,552	949	299	461	190	1,899	343	+1,209
Jan 85	1,343	647	257	116	77	1,097	405	+ 938
Feb 85	1,242	747	357	224	126	1,454	554	+ 688
Mar 85	2,001	933	418	376	196	1,923	518	+1,483
Apr 85	2,043	726	251	273	184	1,434	389	+1,654
May 85	2,174	1,437	497	563	297	2,794	1,364	+ 810
Jun 85	1,186	1,167	344	386	223	2,120	513	+ 673
Jul 85	1,431	1,125	283	369	273	2,050	2,416	- 985
Aug 85	1,297	1,002	382	333	235	1,952	2,817	-1,520
Sep 85	862	609	251	232	155	1,247	2,156	-1,294
Total:	17,373	10,422	3,833	3,829	2,214	20,298	12,612	+4,761
Average:	1,448	869	319	319	185	1,692	1,051	+ 397

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DO YOU EXCERPT OR QUOTE FROM "THE W5YI REPORT?"

ANNUAL CHRISTMAS GIFT OFFER

This is, of course, allowed without limitation. The W5YI Report appears on many computer bulletin boards and in club newsletters. We do not get any income from this and would appreciate it if you would publish our small classified ad (see margin between pages 4 & 7) on license preparation materials. Thanks!

Renew your own W5YI REPORT subscription and "gift" another at half price! \$21.00 renewal - \$10.50 for gift subscription!

The PRSG suggested a six phase implementation program spread over the next twelve years. Basically....

PHASE ONE Asked the FCC to limit licensing to individuals and not commercial operations eligible for other comparable services. Licensing would be simplified.

PHASE TWO Would see a name change from GMRS to PMRS. Plans would be made to replace conventional FM with more spectrum efficient narrowband technologies.

PHASE THREE New emission mode channels would be introduced sandwiched in between current FM channels.

Automatic trunking would come in **PHASE FOUR**... a process where stations are hardware controlled and automatically assigned to vacant channels.

PHASE FIVE Final implementation of "new mode" channels would be accomplished. (7 non-voice control channels, 52 simplex channels and 27 voice repeater channels.)

PHASE SIX (1996) would see a phase out of current FM operations.

NEW WORLDWIDE TV STANDARD BACKED...

A new wider-screen higher-definition television (HDTV) standard is all but assured having been passed by an international standards committee in Geneva, October 31st.

The final approval for the new standard will come in six months at a session planned for Yugoslavia. A single worldwide standard is desirable to facilitate easier exchange and co-production of programming.

The Japanese developed (U.S. supported) standard provides for 1,125 horizontal lines, a 5:3 aspect ratio and 30 picture frames per second. Present standards call for 525 scanning lines and a 4-to-3 width-to-height size.

The new HDTV standard will allow television resolution to sharpen by a factor of two and be approximately the equivalent of motion theatre 35-mm film.

An excellent article appears in the September 1985 issue of "High Technology" telling about **PACSAT**, an inexpensive communications satellite being jointly developed by VITA (Volunteers in Technical Assistance) and AMSAT, the Radio Amateur Satellite Corporation, to assist Third World nations. PACSAT will be carried aboard a 1987 Space Shuttle and will employ a digital "mailbox" system.

CANADA TO RESTRUCTURE HAM SERVICE! NO-CODE ENTRY LEVEL PROPOSED!....

Canada's Department of Communication (DOC) has issued their long rumored proposal entitled "Restructuring of the Amateur Service." The DOC in Canada is similar to our FCC. Their feeling was that the present structure, with its heavy emphasis on technical knowledge, is no longer relevant in a world where most amateurs use commercially built rather than home made gear.

The Department is also concerned about the small number of new amateurs, particularly young amateurs, who are joining the ranks. Last year, the growth rate fell to 1.1%. The average age of amateurs in Canada is 55. It seems that everyone familiar with the situation has come to the same conclusion. If amateur radio is to survive north of the border, more participants must be attracted.

Both Canadian ham groups... the CRRL (Canadian Radio Relay League) and CARF (Canadian Amateur Radio Federation) were briefed on the DOC proposals on October 25 - but were sworn to secrecy until the details appeared in the Canada Gazette (similar to our Federal Register.)

It apparently has now been released because we have been provided with a draft of what the Canadian government has in mind for its amateur service. Basically, the proposal drastically reduces the requirements for becoming an amateur radio operator in Canada - or for upgrading to a higher class.

At present, Canada has three amateur radio operator license classes ...or certificates as they call them ..."Amateur",

merchants to get credit card approval for any purchase. Testing is in progress now.

●**"Dental Microdot"** is a national human ID system. The identification wafer is attached to a tooth with a liquid plastic and carries such data as the wearer's name, address, emergency phone numbers and medical information. Made by: EXACTident.

●**"Hardcard"** is a plug-in 10-megabyte hard disk that is one quarter the size of conventional hard disks and plugs into the expansion slot of IBM-compatible personal computers.

●CompuSonics, David Schartz, is working on a \$1,500 digital music editor that hooks up to a personal computer and edits music on floppy disks... also a gadget that records visual images on floppies.

●**"Video Postcards"** have been invented by Visual Greetings, Inc., of Albuquerque. The contraption allows customers to tape messages and greetings against any of six backgrounds ...including the Eiffel Tower!

●**"Up Time"** is a \$54 per year magazine on a disk for Apple II computer users. Published by: Viking Technologies, Newport, RI

●Brad Baker, 25, has invented "Tech:-Time" a digital time clock that is hooked to a computer and automatically produces paychecks at a certain time each week.

●Videologue Marketing has 35,000 VCR owners that spend \$9.95 to subscribe to a video version of a product catalog. They receive 10% commission on every item sold!

●**Microtech Flea & Tick Collar** uses a battery powered transmitter to emit a sound too high pitched for dogs (or humans) to hear, but scares the hell out of fleas! 70 bucks... seems like a lot. (BioTechnology, Inc., Miami)

●The Jingle Disk Christmas Card is a green floppy disk that plays a cartoon ...Christmas carols and can even print out Christmas cards. \$9.95 for IBM, Apple and Commodore personal computers. (By Thoughtware, Inc, Coconut Grove, FL)

PMRS - NEW PERSONAL RADIO SERVICE

In our last issue we mentioned that the FCC was working on PMRS - **Personal Mobility Radio Service**. PMRS is the brainchild of the Personal Radio Steering Group - a GMRS (General Mobile Radio Service) organization headed up by amateur, Corwin D. Moore, Jr., WB8UPM, of Ann Arbor, Michigan.

The original UHF "Class A" Citizen's Radio Service, the forerunner of GMRS, was created in the late 1940's. It was never widely used by the public. Actually to this day, the everyday personal communications needs of the public have never been realized.

In 1976, the Congressionally chartered "Personal Use Radio Advisory Committee" (PURAC) was created to recommend changes in the personal radio services. The intent here was to respond to the explosive popularity of 27 MHz CB. The PURAC Task Group on GMRS conducted an exhaustive study on licensing and usage and made a number of recommendations for change.

A comprehensive review was promised by the FCC... but never undertaken. In 1982, General Electric petitioned the FCC for PRCS, Personal Radio Communication Service ...an addressable, trunked, low-priced mobile telephone service that would meet the needs of the public.

Cellular interests opposed its introduction fearing dilution of their market. Because of delays in the consideration of PRCS, GE decided in 1984 to pull out of this potential new and big consumer market. The 900-MHz spectrum was assigned to other services. The Personal Radio Steering Group has now developed a similar service on 460-MHz spectrum assigned to GMRS.

The PRSG petition, an exhaustive, extremely well done, 110-page document, addressed the inadequacies of the current GMRS configuration and the need for both immediate and long term changes. It was filed on June 11 and assigned RM-5058. A 70 page supplement was submitted two weeks later that addressed a time schedule for implementation and a channelization scheme.

"I am a currently licensed Extra Class amateur radio operator and wish to be a volunteer examiner. I have never had my station or operator license revoked or suspended. I do not own a significant interest in nor am an employee of any company or entity engaged in making, preparing or distributing amateur radio equipment or license preparation materials. My age is at least 18 years old."

WOULD YOU LIKE TO BECOME A VOLUNTEER EXAMINER?
under "The W5YI Report" Program? If so, please send a copy of your Extra Class license, this signed statement, and a SASE to: W5YI-VEC; P.O. Box #10101; Dallas, Texas 75207. A certificate (optional) is also available for \$1.00. Details and accreditation materials will be sent to you within a two week period.

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FCC SUED ON HAM POWER STANDARD.... APPEALS COURT AFFIRMS FCC RULING

In a judgement issued October 15, the U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit has upheld a decision by the FCC which replaced the former input power measurement standard in the Amateur Radio Service with a standard based upon output power.

This standard set the maximum permissible peak envelope power (PEP) output for amateur radio station transmitters at 1500 watts. The court's judgement was accompanied by an unpublished memorandum opinion.

AM'ers were upset over what they called a "loss of privileges" since they would be required to use the newer PEP standard in five years.

In his appeal, Glenn A. Baxter, K1MAN, of Belgrade, Maine, argued that the new standard which permits AM Double Side Band (DSB) operators to continue to operate under the old standard (up to 3,000 watts) only until June 1, 1990, will decrease the range and quality of his operations, thus reducing the educational and economic value of his equipment.

The Commission had rejected a permanent grandfathering of 3,000 watt operation because it could not "justify a permanent and continuous expense in terms of equipment and training that would be necessary for it to be prepared to make a special power measurement for this class of operations."

While the court acknowledged the importance of public service that amateur radio operators render, it could find nothing in the record to indicate that the FCC has violated its legal duties in the matter. In arriving at its decision, the court also concluded that "the FCC possessed technical knowledge and expertise which exceeded that of the court."

The federal court decision came about three weeks after final oral arguments were presented in Washington, D.C. The decision can be appealed to the U.S. Supreme Court.

VIDEO PROGRAMMERS GEAR UP FOR PPV

Will Pay Per View, cause a "revolution" in the entertainment business as the advance publicity claims? Cable, telephone companies, TV and movie production firms, sports promoters, hardware manufacturers... you name it... are all quietly working toward ultimately getting you to stay home and watch the tube instead of going out.

Zenith Phonevision "Impulse PPV" has a different way to order PPV! It requires no special hardware in a TV cable home. Using advanced ANI (automatic number identification) technology and software (in cable operator's studio), viewers merely telephone a local number which corresponds to a PPV special event. You can wait until just 20 seconds before the program is aired... thus eliminating one of the major problems of PPV - that being programming must be pre-ordered. The system is built around Zenith's addressable decoder already in millions of cable homes. A six month trial using ANI in California is scheduled to begin shortly.

"Request Television" kicks off their PPV venture on November 28th! This service will offer first-run movie films at the same time they are made available to the home VCR market. Eliminated will be the time and trouble of going (twice) to the corner video rental emporium. Nine major film makers have been signed up and cable operators will split the PPV revenue with the studios. Movies will be scrambled and satellite delivered to cable operators who must turn your decoder on. An optional wrinkle (called store-forward technology) allows viewers to receive the movie when they want to see it instead of when it is broadcast!

TRN FEATURES ACSB & FCC MONITORING

Will amplitude compandered single side-band (ACSB) obsolete your 2-meter FM equipment? Will it become the voice mode of choice for amateur satellite communications? Will all repeaters eventually go to ACSB? Just what is ACSB anyway?

These questions and more will be

THE ANSWERS TO ALL FCC TESTS ARE AVAILABLE!
The W5YI Report, even though a VEC in all regions

FCC-Novice Study Guide \$3.00 + \$1.00 postage
FCC-Novice Element 2 Test \$1.00 + 50¢ postage
FCC Tech/Gen. Study Guide \$5.00 + \$1.50 postage

Yes!

November 15, 1985

answered on the next North American Teleconference Radio Net (TRN), scheduled for Friday, December 13th, 1985, at 8:00 p.m. C.S.T. Every quarter, thousands of hams tune into TRN which is broadcast across North America over dozens of amateur repeaters, via OCSAR satellite and HF links. Lou Appel, KØIUQ, and his "Darome Connection" provide the teleconference bridge hardware.

The speaker will be one of amateur radio's foremost technical leaders; Paul Rinaldo, W4RI, editor of QST. Paul has closely followed the development of ACSB and was instrumental in obtaining the ACSB transceiver boards recently made available to experimenters by ARRL.

ACSB is just beginning to be used by the commercial sector ... chiefly because of its spectrum efficiency. ACSB uses a 5 kHz bandwidth versus the 15 to 20 kHz of conventional FM. Unlike its cousin, AM SSB, ACSB provides the benefits usually associated with FM such as receiver squelch, automatic frequency control (AFC) and capture effect.

The second half of the December TRN will be an interview with James Berry, Engineer-in-Charge of the FCC's Grand Island (Nebraska) monitoring station.

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answered on the next North American Teleconference Radio Net (TRN), scheduled for Friday, December 13th, 1985, at 8:00 p.m. C.S.T. Every quarter, thousands of hams tune into TRN which is broadcast across North America over dozens of amateur repeaters, via OCSAR satellite and HF links. Lou Appel, KØIUQ, and his "Darome Connection" provide the teleconference bridge hardware.

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W5YI REPORT.....

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W5YI REPORT.....

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WOULD YOU LIKE TO BECOME A VOLUNTEER EXAMINER?
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The statistics show that 36,937 amateurs were administered over 56,000 Technician and higher test elements at 2,644 sessions... 20,298 upgraded! While the average pass rate was 55.17%, it continues to climb.

Most recent pass rate is 61.27% for September... up from a year beginning 46.69% The number of examinees per session is declining, however.... now about 11. Note that 17,373 joined our ranks for the first time!

FISCAL - 1985 - AMATEUR RADIO SERVICE VOLUNTEER EXAMINING PROGRAM STATISTICS

<u>Fiscal-85 Month</u>	<u>No. of VEC's (*)</u>	<u>No. of Testing Sessions:</u>	<u>No. of Test Elements Admin.</u>	<u>No. of Persons Tested:</u>	<u>Pass Rate:</u>	<u>No. of Persons per Session:</u>	<u>No. of Elements per Person:</u>	<u>No. of Test Sessions per VEC</u>
Oct 84	50	75	2,465	1,643	46.69%	21.91	1.50	1.50
Nov 84	50	89	2,240	1,493	47.86%	16.78	1.50	1.78
Dec 84	51	130	2,741	1,827	49.73%	14.05	1.50	2.55
Jan 85	52	219	5,290	3,664	51.30%	16.73	1.44	4.21
Feb 85	53	168	3,428	2,053	54.64%	12.22	1.67	3.17
Mar 85	64	252	6,178	4,177	56.30%	16.58	1.48	3.94
Apr 85	64	261	6,202	3,620	59.32%	13.87	1.71	4.08
May 85	64	328	7,436	4,925	57.88%	15.02	1.51	5.13
Jun 85	64	322	6,221	4,217	58.16%	13.10	1.48	5.03
Jul 85	65	279	4,639	3,173	57.88%	11.37	1.46	4.29
Aug 85	65	280	4,894	3,299	61.03%	11.78	1.48	4.31
Sep 85	65	241	4,247	2,846	61.27%	11.81	1.49	3.71
Total:		2,644	55,981	36,937				
Average:	59	220	4,665	3,078	55.17%	14.60	1.52	3.64

(* Many VEC's handle multiple regions. FCC considers each call sign region as a different VEC for report purposes. W5YI is actually 13 VEC's. Only 27 different VEC's exist. As of October 24 there are now 77 VEC's since "Metroplex-VEC," a New Jersey VEC in Region 2, has now be approved for "national status".)

Fiscal 1985 - Month:	New 1st Time Amateurs	Novice Class Upgrading	Technic. Class Upgrading	General Class. Upgrading	Advanced Class Upgrading	Total Amateurs Upgrading	Amateurs Letting License Expire:	Increase in Amateur Census:
Oct 84	961	390	217	158	58	823	510	+ 451
Nov 84	1,281	690	277	338	200	1,505	627	+ 654
Dec 84	1,552	949	299	461	190	1,899	343	+1,209
Jan 85	1,343	647	257	116	77	1,097	405	+ 938
Feb 85	1,242	747	357	224	126	1,454	554	+ 688
Mar 85	2,001	933	418	376	196	1,923	518	+1,483
Apr 85	2,043	726	251	273	184	1,434	389	+1,654
May 85	2,174	1,437	497	563	297	2,794	1,364	+ 810
Jun 85	1,186	1,167	344	386	223	2,120	513	+ 673
Jul 85	1,431	1,125	283	369	273	2,050	2,416	- 985
Aug 85	1,297	1,002	382	333	235	1,952	2,817	-1,520
Sep 85	862	609	251	232	155	1,247	2,156	-1,294
Total:	17,373	10,422	3,833	3,829	2,214	20,298	12,612	+4,761
Average:	1,448	869	319	319	185	1,692	1,051	+ 397

land, higher frequency and satellite systems cannot provide the range of coverage required.

THE FCC DECISION ON DOCKET 84-874

The Commission said that radiolocation licensees choose to operate in the MF bands "because of spectrum and equipment availability, economic and operational requirements, and technical considerations."

"We believe that when higher technology systems become available, and economic and operational considerations warrant a change, radiolocation licensees will opt for newer systems. For the present, however, there appears to be a valid operational requirement for radiolocation users to employ medium-frequency systems."

The FCC adopted their proposal to implement the 1900-2000 kHz frequency band in the Radiolocation Service Frequency Table. Maximum power levels of 375 watts and 1.0 kHz bandwidths were authorized.

Recognized, however, was that immediate access to the band by radiolocation users may not be necessary because of the time frame concerning the takeover of the 1605-1705 kHz band to AM broadcasting. In view of this, the FCC delayed the date on which the 1900-2000 kHz band becomes available for radiolocation use until July 1, 1987.

Part 97 of the Amateur Radio Service rules was amended with a footnote to indicate that General, Advanced and Extra Class amateur radio operators transmitting in the 1900-2000 kHz frequency band must do so on a secondary non-interference basis to operations in the Part 90 Radiolocation Service. "Amateur operations are afforded no protection from interference due to operation of stations in the Radiolocation Service in this band."

"We note that for the near term, amateur operators will continue to have virtually exclusive non-government use of this band until such time as private radiolocation transmitters become operational," the FCC said in their October 31st release.
(Action: FCC, 10/28/85 by Report & Order)

FCC ANNOUNCES 1986 MAXIMUM TEST FEE

Pursuant to Part 97.36 of the Commission's Rules for the Amateur Radio Service, the FCC announced on October 31st that effective January 1, 1986, the maximum allowable reimbursement for out-of-pocket costs for a volunteer administered amateur radio examination will be \$4.29. This amount is based on a 3.2% increase in the Department of Labor Consumer Price Index (CPI) during the last fiscal year.

"The amount of such reimbursement from any examinee for any one examination at a particular examination session, regardless of the number of examination elements taken, must not exceed \$4.29," the FCC noted.

The maximum expense recoupment rate for 1985 was \$4.16 (4% CPI increase) but all VEC's retained the \$4.00 figure. The original legislation provided for increases in out-of-pocket cost rebates based on inflation.

The VEC determines the amount of expense rebate based on the overall annual cost estimate of administering his VEC/VE program. Corresponding adjustments must be made the following year if costs are less than recouped.

While we have not yet reached a firm decision on our own VEC program yet, we are leaning towards a (1986) \$4.25 fee with the VE retaining \$2.00 if ten or more examinations are administered... \$1.25 if nine or less are given.

We believe that we are the only VEC that shares expense recoupment with our volunteer examiners. We do this because there are expenses ...postage, duplicating, pencils, etc., that the VE must pay for and funds must be available.

FCC RELEASES 1985 VE PROGRAM STATS...

The Fiscal-1985 Volunteer Examining Program statistics released by the FCC's Private Radio Bureau show that the system is working! Even though the new VE program started in 1984, it didn't really get going until FY-85.

DO YOU EXCERPT OR QUOTE FROM "THE W5YI REPORT?"

This is, of course, allowed without limitation. The W5YI Report appears on many computer bulletin boards and in club newsletters. We do not get any income from this and would appreciate it if you would publish our small classified ad (see margin between pages 4 & 7) on license preparation materials. Thanks!

ANNUAL CHRISTMAS GIFT OFFER

Renew your own W5YI REPORT subscription and "gift" another at half price! \$21.00 renewal - \$10.50 for gift subscription!

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"Advanced Amateur" and "Digital." No Novice or entry level class exists in Canada. Only the "Digital" ticket requires no code. The written theory test is, however, extremely difficult and the license is very unpopular. Most Digital licensees also hold either the "Amateur" or "Advanced Amateur" certificate. While Canada may have a no-code license now, it certainly isn't for beginners!

CANADA'S AMATEUR RADIO PROPOSAL....

Under the proposed plan, there would still be three certificates... an A, B and C.

Certificate A: would be an entry level class. The only requirement would be to pass a written examination on:

- (1.) - Installation and operation of a modern amateur station including interpretation of meter readings, adjustments to prevent interference, grounding and use of low pass filters.
- (2.) - Basic electronic theory including safety practices while working on circuits and correcting interference problems such as front-end overload and audio rectification.
- (3.) - Antennas and propagation including types of antennas and feedlines, and characteristics of various modes of propagation; and
- (4.) - Domestic and international regulations applicable to Amateur Radio.

There would be no Morse code test.

Holders of Certificate A would have the following privileges and restrictions:

- (1.) - The transmitter portion of the station, from microphone or key input to RF output, would have to be commercially built and specifically marketed (government approved?) for use on the amateur frequencies. Other parts of the station, i.e. receiver, transmatch, antenna, computer interface... could be home built.
- (2.) - No emissions would be permitted on bands below 30 MHz. All modes would be permitted on bands above 30 MHz.
- (3.) - Maximum power would be 250 watts d.c. input; and
- (4.) - A holder of Certificate A would not be allowed to become a licensee of a repeater or remote base station.

Certificate B - would give additional privileges when used in conjunction with Certificate A. The sole requirement would be passing a 12 w.p.m. Morse Code test, both sending and receiving. Certificate B licensees would have the same privileges and restrictions as Certificate A, but would be permitted to use all modes of emissions on all amateur bands, above and below 30 MHz.

When used in conjunction with Certificates A and B, Certificate C would grant additional privileges:

- (1.) - The right to use homebuilt transmitting equipment.
- (2.) - The right to use maximum legal power, 1,000 watts d.c. input; and
- (3.) - the right to become a licensee of a repeater or remote base station.

The sole additional requirement would be passing an examination of advanced electronic theory, with a degree of difficulty somewhere between the present Amateur and Advanced Amateur examinations. Thus the top-of-the-line ticket becomes easier to obtain.

Under the DOC proposal, amateur applicants would be able to take all three certificates (A-entry level written, B-12 wpm code and C-advanced written) examinations at a single sitting. Existing holders of Amateur and Advanced Amateur Certificates would be grandfathered into Certificate C. Digital amateurs would receive Certificates A and C and would have to take the code test to receive HF privileges.

The Department of Communications has set a six month comment period after publishing in the Canada Gazette. If you are a Canadian subscriber, your comments should go to: Director General, Radio Regulatory Branch, DOC, 300 Slater Street, Ottawa, Ontario (Canada) K1A 0C8

While not a part of the restructuring proposal, the DOC is also looking into having a team of three volunteer amateurs administer their Morse code test. (I wonder where they got that idea from?) These VE's would have to hold Advanced Amateur Certificates and have fifteen years of amateur radio experience among them.